



# the milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of  
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society  
P.O. Box 5915                      Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

**February, 2014**

## **Kay Craigie, N3KN Wins Third Term as ARRL President**

The ARRL Board of Directors has elected Kay Craigie, N3KN, to a third two-year term. The Board met January 17 and 18 in the Hartford, Connecticut area for its annual meeting and the election of officers was at the top of the agenda. The League's 15<sup>th</sup> president, Kay lives in Blacksburg, Virginia and has been in office since 2010, succeeding Joel Harrison, W5ZN. (ARRL)

## **FCC Opens Brief Window for Comments on WRC-2015 Draft Recommendations**

The FCC has invited comments by February 18 on the latest batch of draft recommendations of its Advisory Committee for World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-2015). At its January 27 meeting, the Advisory Committee (WAC) approved draft recommendations on a number of issues that will be considered by WRC-2015. Some items, including one which could possibly lead to changes to 60 meters in the long term, could affect the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, is a member of the WAC, which is chartered to allow non-federal government entities to "provide to the [FCC] advice, technical support, and recommended proposals for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference."

WRC-2012 Resolution 649 invited WRC-2015, to consider allocating "an appropriate amount of spectrum, not necessarily contiguous," to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis within the band 5250 to 5450 kHz. "In order to maintain effective and reliable communications capability throughout the sunspot cycle, allocations at regular intervals are desirable, in order to permit operation as close to the maximum usable frequency as possible," the WAC said in its draft recommendations. Incumbent services in the 5250 to 5450 kHz range include fixed, mobile, and radiolocation services. "A secondary allocation from 5275 to 5450 kHz avoids the unsuitable segment allocated to the Radiolocation Service, reduces the interval between HF amateur allocations below 10 MHz to permit reliable operation throughout the sunspot cycle, and maximizes the flexibility of Amateur Service stations to effectively communicate within the secondary allocation and fulfills their obligations to avoid harmful interference to primary services," the WAC concluded. (ARRL)



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The award-winning monthly  
publication of The BRATS.  
Items herein may be reprinted  
with appropriate credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

### Some Thoughts

Just take a look at the minutes of the last meeting ( see Page 3). Many things are changing, hopefully for the better. Please do plan to join us for our next meetings and participating with us in improving .. See you then,  
73, Mayer, W3GXX

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**The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915**

a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3)  
of the internal revenue Code and a non-profit  
corporation in the state of Maryland.

Member of and support: The ARRL and The  
Foundation for Amateur Radio.

Home Page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

email: [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)

Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7:15 PM at the  
Pikesville Library; 1301 Reisterstown Road

**President:** Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

**Vice Pres.** Oryx Gazella, K0RYX

**Secretary:** Ted Bauer, WA3AER

**Treasurer:** Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN

**Chairman of the Board:**

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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### BRATS REPEATERS

Linked Repeaters WB3DZO

147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

Stand-Alone repeaters:

443.350+, 224.8-

Packet Nodes:

W3GXT-5: 145.05

W3GXT-10: 224.52

ATV Repeater W3WCQ

Inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

### BRATS Weekly Nets

Monday, 9 PM – Traffic and Info

Tues. 11:45 AM- Informat ATV

Wednes. 9 PM – CATS ATV Net

Thurs. 9 PM – BRATS ATV Net

Sat., 1 PM Weekly News Bulletin

Sun. 8 PM BRATS ATV Net

As Needed: Skywarn

### BRATS Board of Directors:

Through December, 2014:

K9FXV, K3ZMN

Through December, 2015:

K2GZL, N3GXH

### MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Second Monday of each month, 7:15 PM

Pikesville Library 1301 Reisterstown Rd

### Next BRATS Meeting

Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

7:15 PM, Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown, Rd

## BRATS

### Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society MINUTES of the 13 January 2014 Monthly Meeting

Kevin, KB3PLX, chaired meeting. Conducted Annual board meeting.

#### REPORTS

Minutes - Minutes from December 2013 meeting accepted, approved w/o discussion.

Treasurer - Reviewed \$2805.26 EOY expenditures. Insurance premium reduced by eliminating coverage for properties no longer used.]

2012 - 2013 Actual vs. Planned Budget outline distributed.

/OLD BUSINESS none

#### NEW BUSINESS

Remote Receivers - Chinese 5W xcvs shown that can be remotely controlled. Dual band. Est. \$1K if used at all sites. Can be configured with internal modem. Meeting Room - Considering options to reduce meeting room cost. Alternate months in library with dinner meeting at selected restaurants.

Membership/Web site - Electronic renewals and unified list to maintain membership status/info is again on the table.

Field Day 2014 - Had preliminary discussion for FD 2014 planning. FAR -

[Eric Walker Memorial Scholarship funds planned to be re-directed to JOTA. Believed to be better investment in bringing new amateurs aboard. Thus, FAR Scholarship is eliminated.

#### 2014 Project List Budget Items:

- Repeater upgrades - storage; voice announcements
- UPS battery upgrade
- Software upgrades
- Extend wireless data network - range and throughput (mobile webcams?)
- APRS integration
- Wx station set up
- Audio streaming
- ATV amp replacement
- Stream ATV video via Web site
- Hamfest
- Meeting attendance - set up programs to improve interest and participation
- Web site and single list; electronic membership payment capability
- Joint Member Club Project - high altitude balloon w/ATV?
- Investigate grants (ACS?)

Motion to accept 2014 project list and associated proposed budget. Approved

#### Public Service events:

5K MS Walk - April 13, Goucher College

MS150 Bike - May 31-Jun 1, Easton

Bike to Bordeaux - no info available yet

}By-Laws Amendment - 2yr term limit for President, V.P. presented by Kevin, KB3PLX. Motion to accept as presented. Approved. Discussed extending to other officers: Secty., 3yr.; Treasurer, 5yr. Tabled.

/PROGRAM none

Ted, WA3AER, Secretary

## **NEW UK BAND PLANS PUBLISHED**

The Radio Society of Great Britain has published new band plans for all United Kingdom amateur allocations from 136 kHz to 250 GHz. Copies of the band plan pages can be freely downloaded from the Operating section of the RSGB website at [www.rsgb.org](http://www.rsgb.org). RSGB membership is not required to access these files. The same information will also be available in printed form in the February edition of the RSGB monthly magazine RadCom. (RSGB, Southgate, via ARNewsline)

## **CANADA FULLY AUTHORIZES 5 MHZ CHANNELS**

Some good news for our friends to the North. On January 22nd, the Canadian regulator, Industry Canada released a decision to allow that nation's ham radio community the permanent use of five spot frequencies in the 60 meter or 5 MHz band. The new grant in Canada is the result of an official Industry Canada consultation held in the Summer 2012. The frequencies designated are 5.332, 5.348, 5.358.5, 5.373 and 5.405 MHz. Canadian hams can use them on a non-interference, no-protection basis. The maximum allowable bandwidth is 2.8 kHz at 100 watts peak envelope power. You can read the full Industry Canada 5 MHz decision at [tinyurl.com/canada-60-meter-grant](http://tinyurl.com/canada-60-meter-grant). (IC, VE3QN, PB2T, G3PSM, Southgate, via ARNewsline)

## **CUBA GIVES HAMS ACCESS TO 60 METERS**

Cuba's the Ministry of Communications of Cuba has given hams in that island nation what amounts to strictly controlled access to the 5 MHz or 60 meter band. The rules change was approved on January 20th gives Cuban Novice class operators a power limit of 50 watts while high class license holders can run up to 100 watts maximum power out in emergency conditions as needed for a reliable link establishment. That seems to mean once any Cuban official declares any sort of a crisis situation exists that all other operations must cease immediately and the spectrum will be restricted for emergency communications only. But access to the new allocation by Cuban hams will not be immediate. According to Pavel Costa, CO7WT, as reported in the Southgate News, getting on the new allocation will require a request to the related authority and the agency's approval before hams in Cuba will be able to fire up in the new spectrum. As to whether this will be a spot frequency or continuous allocation was not mentioned in the CO7WT report. (CO7WT, Southgate, via ARNewsline)

## **PORTUGUESE RADIO HAMS GET 1850 TO 2000 KHZ ACCESS**

Portuguese telecommunications regulator ANACOM has granted that nation's ham radio community the temporary use of the 1850 to 2000 kilohertz band. According to the announcement as posted on Portugal's national amateur radio society website this will permit Portuguese radio amateurs the ability to participate in more radiosports competitions during 2014. (REP)

## **CELEBRATING COSMONAUT YURI GAGARIN'S 80<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**

On the air, keep an ear open during the entire month of March for Russian special event station UE80HS. This operation is being held to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Russia's first astronaut Yuri Gagarin who was born on March 9th 1934. Gagarin was the first human to journey into space when his Vostok spacecraft completed an orbit of the Earth on April 12th, 1961. If you work UE80HS, please QSL via RW6HS. (OPDX)

## ARRL DX BULLETIN

**BAHAMAS, C6.** Tim, AF1G is QRV as AF1G/C6A while living and working on Andros Island until November 20. He is active on 80 to 6 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

**MOZAMBIQUE, C9.** Karel, ZS6ALB is now QRV as C91KHN from Matola. He is active on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes. He will use C91C in various contests. QSL direct to home call.

**SWEDEN, SM.** Special event station J7S400K is QRV during 2014 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the city Kristianstad. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via SM7BHM.

**ROMANIA, YO.** Special event station YP1989TM is QRV during 2014 to commemorate the violent events of the Rumanian revolution during the end of 1989 which began in Timisoara. There may be other YP25 prefixes used as well. QSL via operators' instructions.

**SERBIA, YT.** Members of the radio club Mihajlo Pupin are QRV as YT0PUPIN during all of 2014 to commemorate the 160th birthday of this physicist and writer. QSL via YT7WA.

## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Feb 1-2	Vermont QSO Party 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB
Feb 1	Minnesota QSO Party
Feb 1-3	Delaware QSO Party
Feb 8-9	YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest New Hampshire QSO Party
Feb 15-16	ARRL Int'l DX Contest, CW
Feb 21-23	CQ 160 Meter Contest, SSB
Feb 22-23	REF Contest, SSB UBA DX Contest, CW North Amer. QSO Party, RTTY
Feb 23-24	North Carolina QSO Party
Mar 1-2	ARRL Int'l DX Contest, SSB

## Radio Amateurs Receive Rosetta Spacecraft Signals from Deep Space

James Miller, G3RUH, was among a small handful of Amateur Radio operators to receive the X band signal January 21 from the European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft, some 500 million miles from Earth. Miller used the 20 meter dish at the Bochum Amateur Radio facility in Germany, run by AMSAT-DL and IUZ Bochum Observatory. In an AMSAT-BB post, Miller noted the frequency at the spacecraft was 8421.786900 MHz, and the signal was 14 dB below that of the STEREO A/B spacecraft.

Perhaps more astonishing, Bertrand Pinel, F5PL, was able to track Rosetta 65 kilometers from Toulouse using his "home-rigged" 3.5 meter dish and receiver. Viljo Allik, ES5PC, a member of Estonian Student Satellite Program team reported his group was able to detect the satellite's signal using a slightly smaller dish. "We have recently established our own small ground station for mostly educational purposes to get more interested students into space technology," Allik said in a reply to Pinel's European Space Agency blog post. The Estonian group used a 3 meter dish. Allik said the signal-to-noise ratio was in the range of 3 to 5 dB in a 1 Hz bandwidth. "So it was really exciting to see the signal from such large distance with our very simple receiving station. The elevation of the Rosetta spacecraft at our location was only about 4° during the reception." The equipment used was "a kind of amateur design," he said. "We detected signals from other spacecraft like Gaia and STEREO A/B too, but the signal from Rosetta is the most-distant signal we have detected so far." Launched in 2004, Rosetta will both orbit and land on a comet, which it will reach this August, and send data back to Earth. The spacecraft consists of the Rosetta space probe and the Philae robotic lander.



## Hamfests

**Saturday, February 1:** Richmond, VA  
Richmond Frostfest. Richmond  
Raceway Complex; 600 E. Laburnum Ave.  
<http://www.frostfest.com>; 146.88/R  
Mike, AC5PT, 804-657-7038

**Saturday, April 5** – Timonium MD  
The Greater Baltimore Hamboree  
MD State Fair Grounds, Timonium  
ONE DAY ONLY!! Free VE Exams aa  
at 9 AM; BARC. 443-590-1444

### ARNEwsline DX News:

WA2NHA will be active March 2nd to the 17th  
stroke P4 from **Aruba**. His operating will be on  
80 through 10 meters mainly using CW.

QSL via his home callsign.

WS5K will be operational as PJ4F from the island  
of **Bonaire** between February 7th and March 9th.

Activity will probably be on the H-F bands, but no  
other information was provided. If you work him  
QSL via direct to WS5K or electronically

### VE EXAMS

LARC. 364 Main S.t Laurel, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat., 9 AM  
John, WB3GXW, 301-572-5124

**Historical Electronics Museum, Linthicum**  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6 PM, Harold, WB4OGP  
410-757-0493(h); 410-712-6829 (w)

**Aero ARC: White Marsh Library 1 PM.**  
walk-ins welcome  
Nov. 23. ARRL VEC \$15 testing fee.  
Pat. AC3F, 410-687-7209; [ac3f@juno.c](mailto:ac3f@juno.c)

### BARC VE EXAMS

12360 Owings Mills Blvd,  
Register at 1:30; exams at 2.

, Feb 8, March 1  
No session in April  
May 3, June 7, July 13,  
August 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 5,  
Nov 8, Dec 6...  
January, July and October  
are Sunday sessions.  
(Thanks, N3YI)

### EASTERN VHF/UHF/MICROWAVE CONFERENCE IN APRIL

The 40th annual Eastern VHF-UHF and Microwave Conference will be held April 11th to the 13th. The event is sponsored by the East Weak Signal Group and will again will be held at the Baymount Inn and Suites in Manchester, Connecticut. For more information take your web browser to [www.newsvhf.com](http://www.newsvhf.com).  
(Via press release)

### DAYTON TOP BAND DINNER ON MAY 16

And a day later the 25th Annual Dayton 160 meter Top Band dinner will be held Friday evening May 16, also at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Dayton, Ohio. Social hour begins at 6:15 PM with dinner at 7:15 PM. Dinner reservations and tickets are now available on the web at [topbanddinner.com](http://topbanddinner.com). (K3L)

## Milliwatt Swap Shop

Ads are free and get results!

Mail your ad to: BRATS, Box 5915

Baltimore, MD 21282-5915 or

email to [w3qyk@verizon.net](mailto:w3qyk@verizon.net)

FOR SALE: Hustler G7-144\$125. You pick up- HRO discount price \$199. Took down to put up dual band antenna. N3BHE 410-299-5931.

FOR SALE: ICOM T2H 2 mtr. HT w/ charger belt clip, rubber ducky, manual, asking \$80 K3BCD: 410-866-5441; or [wmm@comcast.net](mailto:wmm@comcast.net)

SPECIAL OFFER! ICOM BC-110 battery charger, 12vDC, 200 ma. for ICOM T8A or equivalent, almost new, cost \$46, make me a reasonable offer. Also, WANTED: Battery for ICOM T8A, Mayer, W3GXX, [w3qyk@verizon.net](mailto:w3qyk@verizon.net)

FOR SALE: ICOM 745, 200 watt HF scvr, PIEXX IC-EX 243 physical electric keyer, PROM memory board, standard mike, 13v. power cord. No power supply. Will consider trade, currency or both. KB3RLD@arrl.net

WANTED: Original DJ580T in working order, order with battery pack, charger, contact [N3YI@yahoo.com](mailto:N3YI@yahoo.com)

### JADE COMPUTERS

1009 Ingleside Ave, Baltimore 21228

443-667-4187. [joe@jadecomputers.us](mailto:joe@jadecomputers.us)

web page design, hosting, order PC on-line,

<http://www.jadecomputers.us>.

### VTS Video Taping Service

Video, DVD duplications, video tape

transferred to DVD, standards, conversions,

1-877-891-1002. BRATS member Bob Shapiro

K2MYS. <http://www.videotaping-service.com>

### Antique radio repair, Restoration

Eric, WA3TAD, audio visual service, retro

radio. 3401 Chestnut Ave. Baltimore 21211

410-467-3620. [Wa3tad@comcast.net](mailto:Wa3tad@comcast.net)

WANTED: AT 930 for TS 930S. Jerry

[jerrymcd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrymcd@sbcglobal.net)

WANTED: AC Gilbert erector sets: old, new

large, small, need not be complete. CASH

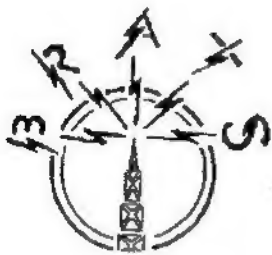
PAID. Lewis, 410-296-4874

WANTED: Manual for MFJ 1452. Greg

WB2LOO. [gjm313@verizon.net](mailto:gjm313@verizon.net)

## FCC WEBSITE FRONT PAGE TO MAKE PERMANENT CHANGE

The old FCC website entry port will soon be completely gone to be replaced by a new front page at [fcc.gov](http://fcc.gov). For almost three years the Federal Communications Commission has maintained a hybrid of both its old and new domains of its website. Beginning Monday, February 3rd, the transition front page will redirect automatically to the new [FCC.gov](http://FCC.gov) homepage. As we go to air, the old front page can still be reached by a click to link on the new front page but that will likely have disappeared by the time many of you hear this. But the good news is that the structure of the new front page is such that all of your personal bookmarks to items once featured on the old page should continue to work. That should make the transition easier for everyone. The FCC says that only the front page is affected and the commission still has many of the former bureau pages still in use. (FCC, RW, via ARNewsline)



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## ZS6OB ACHIEVES 1ST SOUTH AFRICAN 2 METER DXCC

A new record for VHF DXing from South Africa. December saw a landmark for South African VHF DXing when Pine Pienaar ZS6OB applied for the DXCC award using only contacts made in the two meter band. With this Pine became the first amateur in Africa and only the second in the southern hemisphere to achieve this feat. More than two thirds of two meter DXCC holders are in Europe, with their concentration of almost 70 countries in close proximity. North America features about a fifth of applicants, with about a tenth in Japan. Bob Macquarie ZL3TY was the first in Oceania and the southern hemisphere, with ZS6OB being first in Africa. South America has yet to produce its first winner. Pine used digital modes with a four-Yagi station. He has been working on his DXCC for a full decade. His single-band award brings the number of bands on which South Africans have earned DXCC to eleven.

## HAMVENTION ON-LINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE

The online ordering system is now accepting Hamvention 2014 orders. According to an announcement the Hamvention's Webmaster Richard Rieben, KE4WLE, you can now order your tickets or reserve a flea market spot. Its all on-line at [hamvention.org](http://hamvention.org). (KE4WLE)

## Next BRATS Meeting

Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>  
7:15 PM, Pikesville Library  
1301 Reisterstown, Rd

## OTHER CLUB MEETINGS:

QCWA: Monday at Noon, Cactus Willie  
7315 Ritchie Hwy, Glen Burnie  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 1 PM, Old Country  
Buffet, Joppa at Satyr Hill  
Last Wednesday, 1 PM, Denny's  
Bel Air Road at Putty Hill

AARC: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 PM  
Davidson Family Rec. Center  
Queen Anne Bridge Road

AMRAD: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 PM  
Dolley Madison Library  
14 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean, VA

BARC: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday,  
7:30 PM, 12360 Owings Mills Blvd.  
Owings Mills, MD

CARA: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 7:30 PM  
Gateway Center, Room 401  
6751 Gateway Dr., Columbia, MD

BRATS MEMBERSHIP FORM: Regular, \$15; Retired/Disabled/Student: \$10; Family: \$20

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